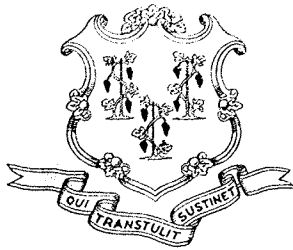


SENATOR PAUL R. DOYLE

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State of Connecticut

SENATE
Ninth District

MAJORITY WHIP

Chair

Human Services Committee

Vice Chair

Housing Committee

Member

Judiciary Committee

Regulations Review Committee

April 5, 2010

HAND-DELIVERED

Governor M. Jodi Rell
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

**RE: Proposed Department Public Health Bio-Safety Level III Laboratory on
West Street in Rocky Hill, Connecticut**

Dear Governor Rell:

We are writing in connection with the above project which is scheduled for a vote at the Wednesday, April 7, 2010, State Bond Commission meeting.

Since the Environmental Impact Evaluation studies were conducted back in 2005-2006, much of the demographics surrounding the proposed site for the lab have changed. We believe this project is an important and necessary project but we object to the Rocky Hill location for many reasons, including the following:

1. **Public Safety Concerns.** Recognizing that the proposed location abuts or is in very close proximity to a residential neighborhood, a municipal park complex, and a state veterans campus and hospital, the operation of a Bio-Safety Level III facility so close to the foregoing neighbors and families visiting Elm Ridge Park is an unacceptable public safety and health risk. The location is better suited in an industrial or manufacturing zone, away from residential and/or recreational areas, to further contain/mitigate associated risks with operating a BSL-3 laboratory with infectious diseases contractible via the inhalation route.

April 5, 2010

2. **Traffic Concerns.** Recognizing that the daily staffing of the proposed laboratory is over 200 people, the increased traffic on West Street will further burden local roads, and increase traffic safety issues. Back in August of 2009, a horrific car crash involving four vehicles killed three people at the corner of West Street and Gilbert Avenue. Please see attached news story. A make-shift memorial still stands at the accident site today. This intersection is less than a quarter mile from the proposed entrance to the new public health facility. Another more recent accident at the corner of West Street and Cromwell Avenue stopped and re-routed traffic for more than 2 hours.

3. **Impact on Environment.** Recognizing that the proposed location of the laboratory is on wooded open space with many natural flora and fauna, the impact of construction will be irreparable harm to the environment in Rocky Hill. In addition, an updated and complete environmental assessment should be conducted on the Rocky Hill site.

4. **Violation of Smart Growth Principles.** As the Hartford Courant detailed in its editorial on March 27, 2010, the construction of this laboratory in suburban open space land rather than it being constructed in an existing urban location violates your executive order issued three years ago.

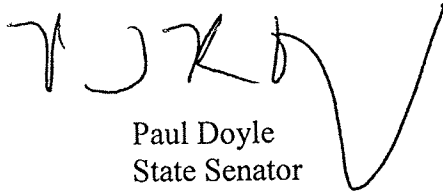
In light of the foregoing rationale, enclosed with this letter are many pages of petitions from residents from Rocky Hill and other surrounding towns in which the signatories express their strong objection to the construction of the laboratory at the West Street location in Rocky Hill. As of the date of this letter, we are continuing to collect signatures and would be happy to provide you with these additional pages at your request.

We respectfully request an opportunity to sit down with you personally to discuss this project before the State Bond Commission meeting on Wednesday, April 7, 2010. At this point in time, we ask that you please remove the Rocky Hill laboratory from the April 7th Bond Commission Agenda and explore other more appropriate locations in the State.


April 5, 2010

Thank you in advance for your consideration and we look forward to meeting with you in the immediate future.


Sincerely,



Paul Doyle
State Senator



Tony Guerrero
State Representative



Michael Lanteri
Concerned Citizen
860-982-0031

cc: Hon. Robert L. Genuario, Secretary of Office of Policy and Management
Hon. Denise Nappier, State Treasurer
Hon. Nancy Wyman, State Comptroller
Hon. Richard Blumenthal, Attorney General
Hon. Raeanne V. Curtis, Commissioner of Department of Public Works
Sen. Eileen M. Daily
Sen. Andrew W. Roraback
Rep. Cameron C. Staples
Rep. Vincent J. Candelora